JWR Center

Continued from page B1

"I'm a volunteer there, but I wanted to do more than that," he said. "It's given so much to me, I need to give back in some way."

He mentioned that the center needs to raise $80,000 in 2012 to stay fully operational.

"JWR is part of the community," Grall said. "It's a great place for kids to go, a safe place for them to see the generosity of volunteers. The community should support it."

Mandy Cervantes, program director at the JWR Center, is proud that Grall was selected to speak at the fund-raiser.

"It's his level of involvement with the club that makes him a great choice," she said. "He's always one of the first kids to help with the events. He's a great kid, very well-spoken and poised."

Froman noted that Grall's volunteer work at the center is a good example of "giving back."

"John has noted that the club is his 'home away from home,' where he has learned valuable life skills, including giving back to his club and community," she said.

In the center's gymnasium, named for Ray Hickey, there is a quote painted on the floor that says, "What we need here is a little less wishbone and a little more backbone."

"Who else is going to have the backbone that our clubs need, and join me in making a difference?" Grall said. "The kids need the Jack, Will and Rob Boys & Girls Clubs, and I need the Boys & Girls Club."